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Prevention of armed conflict

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity**

**Letter dated 13 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative
of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, on the thirtieth anniversary of anti-Armenian pogroms in Baku (see annex).

The anti-Armenian pogroms lasted almost a week, with hundreds of people killed, tortured to death and maimed in the streets of Baku. Many cases of brutalities and murders committed with extreme cruelty were documented. The sad and deplorable outcome of the massacres was complete ethnic cleansing of the Armenian community of Baku, by 1988 numbering around 250,000 people.

This egregious crime against humanity was condemned by the international community, including the European Parliament, at the time.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31 and 130, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 13 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, on the thirtieth anniversary of anti-Armenian pogroms in Baku

Dear Compatriots,

Today we commemorate the victims of pogroms, ethnic cleansings and mass deportations of the Armenians in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Thirty years ago, the international community witnessed and condemned the massacres committed against the Armenian population in Baku.

In 1990, as a result of the policy of repression and ethnic cleansing started by the Sumgait massacre, only 35–40,000 out of some 250,000 Armenians remained in Baku, mostly elderly and helpless people. Their fate was even more tragic: hundreds were killed, maimed and went missing; tens of thousands became refugees. This was the outcome of the anti-Armenian pogroms that raged in Baku for about a week.

The Armenians living in Baku were not a threat to Azerbaijan, to its authorities or political forces. All they wanted was to continue living in their hometown where their ancestors had lived. However, they were viewed as a threat by Azerbaijan because of their ethnic origin.

The Armenians used to live in Baku for centuries, giving the city a genuine trait of multiculturalism. In the 19th century, they made a major contribution to the development of oil industry in Baku. The Armenians played an invaluable role in the development of the city during the Soviet times.

30 years after the aforementioned tragic events, there is no respect or compassion for the victims of Baku's anti-Armenian massacres. Those few people who had courage to even refer in their literary works the tragedy of the Armenians went through in Baku, were publicly shamed and officially declared traitors.

Even today, perpetrators who committed atrocities against helpless people are regarded as heroes of Azerbaijan, while their crimes are considered a glorious chapter in the fight for Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Regretfully, the past three decades failed to be a time of reflection, repentance and reconciliation in Azerbaijan.

In the meantime, we have witnessed attempts to exterminate the population of Artsakh, we have witnessed the release and glorification of the convicted murderer Ramil Safarov, in April 2016 we witnessed tortures and brutal killings of elderly and helpless people in Artsakh's border settlements. Armenophobia has become a state policy and creed in Azerbaijan.

Dear Compatriots,

Today, we express our gratitude to all those international organizations and parliamentary bodies which responded and documented these events by condemning and exposing them to the world.

By paying tribute to the memory of our innocent victims, I declare with all responsibility that we will not allow new attempts to exterminate or deport Armenians. The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Artsakh and all Armenians around the world will use their full potential to ensure the right of existence and peaceful development of the Armenian people in their historical motherland, including in Artsakh.